Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A method in a data processing system having a workflow that models a process, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a plan to perform an instance of the process, the plan having tasks performed by resources, wherein each resource has profiled capabilities that are considered when generating the plan to ensure that, for each task, a suitable one of the resources is selected to perform the task;

receiving modification information indicating that the capabilities of one of the resources has changed;

assigning the resources to the tasks to generate a new plan by using the received modification information; and

improving the profiles of the resources using data mined from the generated plan.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating another plan to perform another instance of the process; and

assigning the resources to the tasks of the other plan using the received modification information.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving modification information includes the step of assigning a new capability to the one resource that indicates

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the one resource is capable of performing an additional one of the tasks.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving modification information further includes the step of receiving replacement information that indicates that another resource should be replaced by the one resource.

5. (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of receiving replacement information includes the step of increasing the strength of the one resource to exceed the strength of the other resource.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving modification information further includes the step of receiving replacement information that indicates that the one resource should be replaced by another resource.

7. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving replacement information includes the step of removing one of the capabilities of the one resource to facilitate the replacement.

8. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of receiving replacement information includes the step of decreasing the strength of the one resource to below the strength of the

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9. (previously presented): A method in a data processing system having a workflow

that models a process and a plurality of plans generated from the workflow that reflect

instances of the process, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to generate a new plan, the new plan having tasks performed by

resources, wherein each resource has profiled capabilities that are considered when generating

the plan to ensure that, for each task, a suitable one of the resources is selected to perform the

task;

examining the plurality of plans to determine a number of the plurality of the plans

that have been modified per a modification since the modified plans were created;

determining whether the number of plans exceeds a predetermined threshold;

when it is determined that the number of plans exceeds the predetermined threshold,

generating the new plan such that the new plan incorporates the modification; and

improving the profiles of the resources using data mined from the newly generated

plan.

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein each plan includes a task

that has one of the plurality of resources assigned to perform the task, wherein the

modification is a substitution of the one resource with another resource, and wherein the step

of generating the new plan includes the step of assigning the other resource to perform the

task of the new plan.

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11. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of assigning a new capability to the other resource that indicates that the other resource is capable of performing the task in the new plan.

12. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of increasing a strength of one of the capabilities of the other resource to a level that indicates the other resource is capable of performing the task in the new plan.

13. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, and wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of increasing the strength of the other resource to exceed the strength of the one resource.

14. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of removing one of the capabilities of the one resource so that the one resource is incapable of performing the task in the new plan.

15. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of decreasing the strength of the one resource to indicate that the one resource is not capable of performing the task in the new plan.

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16. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of decreasing the strength of the one resource to below the strength of the other resource.

17. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system, the data processing system having a workflow that models a process, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a plan to perform an instance of the process, the plan having tasks performed by resources, wherein each resource has profiled capabilities that are considered when generating the plan to ensure that, for each task, a suitable one of the resources is selected to perform the task;

receiving modification information indicating that the capabilities of one of the resources has changed;

assigning the resources to the tasks to generate a new plan by using the received modification information; and

improving the profiles of the resources using data mined from the newly generated plan.

18. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

generating another plan to perform another instance of the process; and

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assigning the resources to the tasks of the other plan using the received modification
information.

19. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the step of
receiving modification information includes the step of assigning a new capability to the one
resource that indicates the one resource is capable of performing an additional one of the
tasks.

20. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the step of
receiving modification information further includes the step of receiving replacement
information that indicates that another resource should be replaced by the one resource.

21. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the one resource
and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of receiving
replacement information includes the step of increasing the strength of the one resource to
exceed the strength of the other resource.

22. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the step of
receiving modification information further includes the step of receiving replacement
information that indicates that the one resource should be replaced by another resource.

23. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the step of
receiving replacement information includes the step of removing one of the capabilities of the

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one resource to facilitate the replacement.

24. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of receiving replacement information includes the step of decreasing the strength of the one resource to below the strength of the other resource.

25. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system, the data processing system having a workflow that models a process and a plurality of plans generated from the workflow that reflect instances of the process, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to generate a new plan, the new plan having tasks performed by resources, wherein each resource has profiled capabilities that are considered when generating the plan to ensure that, for each task, a suitable one of the resources is selected to perform the task;

examining the plurality of plans to determine a number of the plurality of the plans that have been modified per a modification since the modified plans were created;

determining whether the number of plans exceeds a predetermined threshold;

when it is determined that the number of plans exceeds the predetermined threshold, generating the new plan such that the new plan incorporates the modification; and

improving the profiles of the resources using data mined from the newly generated plan.

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26. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein each plan includes a task that has one of the plurality of resources assigned to perform the task, wherein the modification is a substitution of the one resource with another resource, and wherein the step of generating the new plan includes the step of assigning the other resource to perform the task of the new plan.

27. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of assigning a new capability to the other resource that indicates that the other resource is capable of performing the task in the new plan.

28. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of increasing a strength of one of the capabilities of the other resource to a level that indicates the other resource is capable of performing the task in the new plan.

29. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, and wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of increasing the strength of the other resource to exceed the strength of the one resource.

30. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of removing one of the capabilities of the one

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resource so that the one resource is incapable of performing the task in the new plan.

31. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of decreasing the strength of the one resource to indicate that the one resource is not capable of performing the task in the new plan.

32. (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the one resource and the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the step of assigning the other resource includes the step of decreasing the strength of the one resource to below the strength of the other resource.

33. (previously presented): A data processing system comprising:

a secondary storage device further comprising a workflow that models a process;

a memory device further comprising a program that generates a plan to perform

> an instance of the process, the plan having tasks performed by resources, wherein each resource has profiled capabilities that are considered when generating the plan to ensure that, for each task, a suitable one of the resources is allocated to perform each task, that allocates one of the resources to perform at least one of the tasks, that receives modification information indicating that the capabilities of the one resource has changed, that generates a new plan to perform another instance of the process, that allocates the resources to the tasks

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of the new plan using the received modification information, and that improves

the profiles of the resources using data mined from the generated plan; and

a processor for running the program.

34. (original): The data processing system of claim 33, wherein the modification

information indicates that the one resource has been replaced by another resource in at least

one of the tasks in the plan.

35. (original): The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the modification

information further indicates that one of the capabilities of the one resource should be

removed.

36. (original): The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the one resource and

the other resource share a capability having a strength, wherein the modification information

further indicates that the strength of the other resource should be increased to exceed the

strength of the one resource.

37. (original): The data processing system of claim 34, wherein the modification

information further indicates that the other resource should be assigned a new capability that

indicates the other resource is capable of performing the at least one of the tasks in the new

plan.

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38. (previously presented): A system having a workflow that models a process, the system comprising:

means for generating a plan to perform an instance of the process, the plan having tasks performed by resources, wherein each resource has capabilities that are considered when generating the plan to ensure that, for each task, a suitable one of the resources is selected to perform the task;

means for receiving modification information indicating that the capabilities of one of the resources has changed;

means for assigning the resources to the tasks to generate a new plan by using the received modification information; and

means for improving the profiles of the resources using data mined from the generated plan.

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